



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## SHRIMP FISHERY TO RE-OPEN OFF TEXAS ON JULY 15, 2003

Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas will be open to shrimping 30 minutes after sunset on July 15, 2003. The Federal opening corresponds to when Texas opens its waters to shrimp trawling. The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that would otherwise be discarded due to their small size.

Current regulations establish a Federal closure from May 15 to July 15, each year, but provide an allowance for annual adjustments by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). The opening date is determined based on a biological sampling program conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Texas opens state waters, and NOAA Fisheries opens Federal waters to shrimp trawling when the mean size of shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides. Biological data collected by TPWD indicates that the criteria to end the Texas closure will be met on July 15, 2003.

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